

STATE OF TENNESSEE

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 274

SENATE BILL NO. 1168

By Finney, Stanley, Barnes, Gresham, Marrero, Overbey, Ford

Substituted for: House Bill No. 1228

By Fitzhugh, Maddox, Lollar, Lundberg, Yokley

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39, Chapter 14 and Title 58, Chapter 1, relative to criminal offenses involving military medals, ribbons and decorations.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 58, Chapter 1, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section thereto:

58-1-118.

(a) It is an offense for a person to wear or display any decoration or medal authorized by Congress for the Armed Forces of the United States, or any of the service medals or badges awarded to the members of such forces, or the ribbon, button, or rosette of any such badge, decoration or medal, or any colorable imitation thereof, with the intent to deceive or misrepresent to another that the person is authorized under regulations made pursuant to law to wear or display any such badge, decoration or medal.

(b) It is an offense for a person to falsely represent, whether verbally or in writing, that such person has been awarded any decoration or medal authorized by Congress for the Armed Forces of the United States, any of the service medals or badges awarded to the members of such forces, the ribbon, button, or rosette of any such badge, decoration, or medal, or any colorable imitation of such item.

(c) It is an offense for a person to wear or display any decoration or medal authorized by the Tennessee Military Department, or the ribbon, button, or rosette of any such decoration or medal, or any colorable imitation thereof, with the intent to deceive or misrepresent to another that the person is authorized under regulations made pursuant to law to wear or display any such decoration or medal.

(d) It is an offense for a person to falsely represent, whether verbally or in writing, that such person has been awarded any decoration or medal authorized by the Tennessee Military Department, or the ribbon,

button, or rosette of any such decoration or medal, or any colorable imitation thereof.

(e) A violation of subsection (a), (b), (c), or (d) is a Class B misdemeanor, except if a decoration or medal involved is a Congressional Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross, Air Force Cross, Silver Star, Purple Heart or any replacement or duplicate medal for such medal as authorized by law then a violation of subsection (a), (b), (c), or (d) is a Class A misdemeanor.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2009, the public welfare requiring it.

PASSED: May 7, 2009



RON RAMSEY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE



KENT WILLIAMS, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 21st day of May 2009



PHIL BREDESEN, GOVERNOR